

The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

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NOTE FOR:

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FROM: David Gries
Vice Chairman

SUBJECT: Former Director Colby's Remarks at the
Cosmos Club on 6 February

Colby provided a lead-in to Judge Webster's appearance in noting that covert action budgets would probably shrink in the 90s but "under the scrutiny of the Congress as the Director will tell you Friday evening." Colby's three or four other references to the CIA and Congress were in the context of an agency that is increasingly under the joint supervision of the Executive and Legislative Branches. CIA gets into trouble with Congress when the President pursues policies that Congress opposes. The Iran Contra affair is an example. These were the only references to Congress in an hour's discussion. None were controversial.

In his prepared remarks Colby listed his notion of intelligence requirements for the 1990s. In descending order of priority these are monitoring arms controls agreements, producing economic intelligence, following key political relationships, following environment issues and assessing ethnic and religious conflicts. Colby expects the mix of collection tools to change somewhat: fewer expensive technical systems will be needed, but more traditional agent reporting and better processing of overt information will be important.

Questions and answers took up about thirty minutes. All the questions were friendly. Their subjects follow: Will China be a key player in the 90s? (No); Will CIA become more open? (No); Will the Soviets develop fewer new weapons? (Yes); Will the CIA and the KGB cooperate on terrorism? (A little); Should the U.S. continue to develop anti-satellite weapons? (No); Is the importance of national boundaries decreasing? (A little); Should the US and the Soviets undertake joint space exploration? (Too expensive); Is a threshold nuclear test ban treaty a good idea? (Yes, Kennedy almost got one and it would have prevented MIRVs); Does the CIA understand what is happening in Northern Ireland? (No); Is Gorbachev sincere? (Yes); Is perestroika reversible? (Only partially); Is political espionage justified? (Only when

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the information is important and there is no other way to collect it); Can the CIA offer economic advice to those in need, such as East European countries? (In some cases); What was the CIA's batting average on recent developments in East Europe? (As good as anyone else's); Is the quality of the people entering the intelligence field satisfactory? (Very much so); Should the U.S. help Gorbachev? (We should help ourselves to arms control agreements; that will indirectly help him).



David Gries

cc: D/PAO